

THE SHAKERITE

Volume 95 // Issue 5

May 27, 2025

How Trump's Purge of "Liberal" Policy
May Hit Close to Home:



Pg. 3 What should you expect from security next year?

Pg. 5 Be prepared for every class, every day

Pg. 7 Administration must plan soundly to avoid disaster

Fix Our Security — Before it's Too Late

We see it all around us. When there's a loud noise in the hallway — a heavy object drops, a locker slams — students tense, even for just a moment. Anything could be a gunshot if that's what's on your mind. With what's happened this year, it's easy to see why.

When I was a freshman, school shootings were a theoretical event. They were just news articles; horror stories on social media, things that happened to people I didn't know in places I'd never been. Now, when I read news stories about school shootings, I see my own face — my friends' faces, my brother's face — in them. When my mom hears sirens on our street, she instantly imagines the worst-case scenario. It already happened in our library. When will it happen in our school?

At The Shakerite, we've covered these events the day they've happened. We've written breaking news, and we've composed editorials in their aftermath. All year, we have begged for more effective and consistent security. But at the end of the day, words won't make a difference unless the right people read them and react. We need administration to take action now to protect us.

Anyone can tell you that our security system has holes — too many to count. Too many students have described to me how easy it would be to sneak a weapon through the system. Weapons detection varies drastically depending on which entrance you go through, which teacher or security guard checks your bag, and what time of day you arrive. Some days, security guards will shake my binder and rifle through the smallest pockets of my bag. Other days, they just pass my bin along with a glance. Sometimes when I arrive late, security monitors are scrolling on their phones and barely look up when I walk in. Even police officers are on their phones during the school day. Once, a student on senior project told me that they walked into the high school in the middle of the day without passing through any security. Doors are left propped open with no one watching them.

Security needs to be standardized and consistent across the board. It's safer, but also more equitable to students. All security guards should check bins and backpacks in the exact same way. You should never have a different experience with security day to day.

This doesn't just apply to the high school. Weapons detection has become an everyday fact of life. I don't want to be worried about my brother at the middle school, or about going to the library after school. I shouldn't be worried about entering any public space. But I am — it's a thought that constantly crosses my mind.

We can't keep writing editorials about school safety. Our school doesn't need to be reduced to a disturbing news story. Fix it now, or wait and see what happens.



ISABEL SIEGEL
Editor-in-Chief

In This Issue

4 Campus and City

The government's assault on DEI is underway — is Shaker next on the chopping block? Olivia Cavallo examines Shaker's response to Trump's purge of liberal practices in education.

5 Spotlight

How will students deal with the workload of seven classes per day? Daniel Carroll gathers suggestions from the high school's faculty, some of whom are alumni.

7 Opinion

Security, schedules, ID policies — the 2024-25 school year was a mess. The Editorial Board examines issues that plagued this year, and calls on the administration to clean things up.

8 Raider Zone

Standout athletes Miles Shelton and Molly Milligan have excelled in the spring season. Spencer Zbanek has the facts on their achievements on and off the turf.

On the Cover

ALISON TEETER
Design Managing Editor

"DEI," as a term used by politicians and the media, no longer refers to initiatives to create diverse, equitable and inclusive spaces; it has become a euphemism for all support of marginalized groups. So when the Trump administration promises to end "illegal and immoral discrimination programs, going by the name 'diversity, equity, and inclusion,'" what they are really promising is to end programs that support marginalized Americans—and in turn boost some sense of self-worth within straight, white Trump supporters whose contentment is based not in the quality of their own lives, but in the perceived inferiority of the lives of others.

The assault on DEI in public schools produces this boost vicariously through the children of supporters, with parents' pride not coming from their child's accomplishments, but in the perceived inferiority of their child's peers.

This crusade strikes at the very heart of Shaker schools, which, along with 14 other Ohio public school districts, abstained from signing a letter from the U.S. Department of Education requiring schools to end DEI programs. While this is a crucial stance for the district to take, it is only the beginning of a longer, harder fight against attacks on our public schools and their students.



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May 27, 2025
Volume 95 | Issue 5

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Security Screenings Will Continue, One Way or Another

Admin says policies won't change

VIJAYA SADLER
Campus and City Editor

After experiencing four months of varying approaches to walk-through weapons detection, students can expect it will continue next fall, but it's not clear whether the process will change.

Weapons detection began Jan. 23, when students entered through detection systems set up in the egress, front entrance and lower cafeteria. Students were initially asked to arrive at school by 7:40 a.m. to avoid long lines.

Sophomore Zuri Inyang said that she doesn't agree with the early arrival expectation. "Metal detection is very stressful because it takes a lot of time, and no matter what time you get to school, it's very time consuming. Next year, I hope it can become less time consuming," Inyang said.

In March, Principal Isaiah Wyatt said that he didn't like how arrival this year affected the school environment. "We want to create an environment that is not damaging to our students. Seeing the students every day come in and basically have to unload every item they have, student by student by student every single day — it's not necessarily the environment that we want to create for our school," he said.

The high school began conducting daily bag checks and wand screenings Sept. 19 due to an incident the day before, when a student produced a knife outside the building and had to be restrained during dismissal. On Sept. 13, during the football game vs. Euclid High School at Russell H. Rupp Field, a tip led police to search and arrest an SHHS student who was carrying a gun and attempting to enter. Another former student was caught with a knife after turning away from the entry point, where metal detecting wands were in use.

Morning security procedures changed Sept. 29 to screenings on random days. These measures were discontinued following complaints from community members and high school staff about the system's inefficiency, which caused students to arrive late to class. Student compliance with the ID policy affected security screening and time.

Associate Principal James Dubsky said he anticipates that students will still have to wear their IDs next year. "I don't think there will be a lot of changes taking place, but I think we've made a lot of growth this year. I'm not aware of any changes in the [security] layout yet," he said.

Junior Nia Worley said that she hopes for an easier arrival. "I wouldn't say security is welcoming, but most days they're not rude. Some days they'll tell you to take out certain items that they don't want you to take out the next



Students walk through OpenGate weapons detection systems before the first bell in the lower cafeteria May 14. Administrators, security staff and teachers who have first-block preparation periods search through students' metal items, which they have placed in bins, by hand. Unlike SHHS, Cleveland Heights High School, which also uses a weapons detection system, employs bag scanners with conveyor belts, similar to those used in airport security settings, to screen students' bags. *Camryn Dozier*

PENDING STATE LAW WOULD RAISE THE STAKES ON PHONE USE POLICY

Wyatt told The Shakerite in March that the phone policy would not change. "I would hope that we do the phone policy the exact same way. You go through, you pull out your pouch with your electronics. If you don't have a Yondr pouch, we will confiscate your phone for the day," Wyatt said.

"If you bring out your phone during class or misuse it in any way, an adult can call Yondr squad, and the phone will be either put into a Yondr pouch or confiscated. So I plan to do the exact same thing with the phone policy."

Ohio Senate Bill 158 would ban cell phone use in public school districts while allowing exceptions for students who rely on phones for medical or learning purposes documented in IEPs. The bill passed in the senate May 14 by a 30-2 vote and would increase the strictness of Ohio's school cell phone laws from restricting use to banning use during the school day.

Freshman Madison Greene said she doesn't agree with bans. "The bill shouldn't have been passed at all. Students shouldn't have to go to the office just to contact their parents," she said. "I know someone with diabetes that uses their phone to track their sugar."

"When we first started weapons detection, it was strict and stressful. The energy at the start of the school year wasn't very welcoming, but now it just feels like an everyday routine and more welcoming."

Za'Nyah Williams

day, and they come off rude with their own inconsistency. Next year I just hope they have a more efficient way that works for both security and students," she said.

Freshman Madison Greene said that she likes the steps the school has taken since Sept. 19. "My first day was a complete disaster. It was really unorganized. It has definitely gotten better since the beginning of the year. I suggest that they reopen the front door so things will flow smoothly," she said.

Junior Za'Nyah Williams said that she noticed improved energy after security procedures were adjusted. "When we first started weapons detection, it was strict and stressful. The energy at the start of the school year wasn't very welcoming, but now it just feels like an everyday routine and more welcoming. The egress entrance at the beginning of the year didn't feel welcoming at all. The lower caf is welcoming and overall more chill," Williams said. "I hope for next year we can find a more accommodating way to go about metal detection and security. I feel the bins showed more accommodation and some progress."

Dr. Felicia Evans, assistant superintendent, directed a request for comment about addressing inconsistent enforcement of screening practices for next school year to Wyatt and Vic Ferrell, security supervisor.

Neither responded to requests for comment in time for publication.

DISTRICT DEFIES ANTI-DEI ORDER, FOR NOW



Student Group on Race Relations students visit an elementary school classroom this year. The group is among the district's identity-based organizations.

Will Warren

OLIVIA CAVALLO

Senior Writer

The district has decided to continue diversity, equity and inclusion programs despite orders from the federal government to cease.

On Inauguration Day, Jan. 20, President Donald Trump signed an executive order to eliminate DEI programs and hiring practices in the federal government. Diversity, equity and inclusion is a framework of thought that generates practices designed to promote equal opportunity and participation of individuals from groups that have historically faced exclusion.

On Feb. 14, the U.S. Department of Education issued a memo that gave public schools nationwide two weeks to remove DEI programs. It ordered that states collect signatures from schools to confirm their compliance.

Board of Education president Lora Cover said that the board decided through a discussion and vote to not sign the letter from the state. “There’s a bunch of vague language in what they wanted us to certify,” she said. “They never defined what illegal DEI activities would be.”

“Equity is really important to the work that we do, and to even pretend that we were going to comply with a thing when we didn’t even know what they were asking for — it felt like hitting at the integrity of who we are as a district,” Cover said.

The memo states that public schools that sponsor DEI programs violate Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which states that government-funded programs cannot discriminate based on race. Programs in the district that may be considered DEI include the Student Group on Race Relations, a group that aims to educate students on racism; MAC Scholars, a program that promotes the achievement of Black students through educational support;

and the Bridges Program, which seeks to diversify Advanced Placement and IB classes.

Cover said that she does not expect major changes to DEI programs next school year. “I can’t imagine that students are going to see anything that is dramatically different when they come back. I think there may be some sort of differences in the bylaws of some of the organizations we have, or some policies that are going to need to shift. I am cautiously optimistic that, come the fall, it will still feel like Shaker schools when you return,” she said.

Cover said that the district would consider changing department names or job titles to maintain DEI programs. “Even if it has to look slightly different, this is still going to be a priority and an anchor to how we think about education here,” she said.

Junior Sumaya Osman is president of the South Asian Students Association, a group that focuses on South Asian culture but is open to members of all backgrounds. She said that SASA has discussed threats to DEI and decided not to take action.

“We haven’t talked about any active precautions. Maybe we should. We’re just kind of seeing what happens right now,” Osman said. “I feel like we don’t really know how large this is going to be. It’s hard to see what to do in this situation, but it’s definitely something we plan on talking about more.”

West Point, a U.S. military academy in New York, disbanded student groups for women, racial and ethnic minorities, and LGBTQ+ students in response to Trump’s Jan. 20 executive order against DEI in the federal government.

The two largest teachers unions in the country, the American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association, filed lawsuits against the federal government due to its threats to withhold funding from K-12 schools that practice DEI.

Attorney Subodh Chandra, whose three sons graduated from the high school, said that

the district should not comply with the Department of Education’s anti-DEI orders. He said that, typically, when the Department of Education is concerned that a school is violating discrimination law, it notifies the district, conducts an investigation, informs the district of the results and negotiates with the district before funding cuts are considered.

“This administration has contempt for the rule of law and due process, and so instead, they’re prejudging diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility programs without any formal investigation,” he said. “Instead, what we have is these threats — across the country, writ large — to districts, to comply with vague edicts,” Chandra said.

“At the end of the day, I have at least some confidence that federal courts will protect Shaker’s right to due process and its right to insist that the proper legal processes be followed,” he said.

State legislation also poses potential threats to DEI in the district and other Ohio public schools. The Parents’ Bill of Rights is an Ohio law that requires schools to notify parents of changes to their child’s mental, physical or emotional health, which includes identifying as transgender.

House Bill 190 builds on the policies established in the Parents’ Bill of Rights. If passed, it would prohibit school personnel from referring to students by a name that does not appear on their birth certificate, or by a pronoun that doesn’t align with their biological sex.

Sophomore Ava Knapp, the vice president of Gender and Sexuality Alliance, said that attendance is not taken at GSA meetings to protect its members’ privacy. Knapp said that GSA is a safe environment for LGBTQ+ students.

“It’s important because, in a lot of schools, it can be a little more taboo to talk about that during the day,” Knapp said. “It’s a safe space for a lot of students, which can be really important for your mental health.”

Knapp said that GSA makes efforts to fly under the radar. “Shaker’s already, I guess, in the public eye in regards to not being compliant with stuff like DEI,” she said. “There was discussion about potentially doing a walkout. There was a thing with GLSEN that was technically a ‘day of no silence.’ We eventually decided against that,” Knapp said.

GLSEN, formerly the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, is a national organization that works to protect LGBTQ+ students. It organizes the Day of Silence, an annual demonstration that aims to raise awareness of discrimination against LGBTQ+ students.

Senate Bill 113 has been introduced to the Ohio Senate and, if passed, it would ban DEI in public K-12 schools. Cover said that she is concerned about Senate Bill 113 because of potential withholding of state funding. She said that the district receives around 30 percent of its funding from the state.

Said Chandra, “No good can come from curtailing sincere, nondiscriminatory efforts at providing equal opportunity and education. It would not only be contrary to Shaker’s values to capitulate, but it would be contrary to its interest.”

High School Groups That May Face DEI Scrutiny

- SGORR
- MAC Scholars
- MAC Sister Scholars
- Bridges Program
- Asian Culture Club
- Israeli Culture Club
- South Asian Students Association
- Girls Who Code
- Gender and Sexuality Alliance
- Black Athletes Giving Support

THE SAME SCHEDULE, EVERY DAY

Staff, some of whom are alumni of the SHHS 50-minute schedule, offer students, teachers advice for next year

DANIEL CARROLL
Managing Editor

After five years of block scheduling, students will attend all seven of their 50-minute classes every day during the 2025-2026 school year.

Like this year, there will be three lunch periods. Unlike this year, they will not all occur during one period. Students will eat lunch during fourth, sixth or eighth period.

When not eating lunch, students will attend classes while others eat, just like this year.

English teacher Christopher Cotton said that he prefers block scheduling over a day of seven class periods. “I find it easier and just more manageable for workload. I don’t have to prepare every class every day, and that’s an enormous help. I wasn’t crazy about this switch, but I think most teachers want it,” Cotton said.

History teacher Tod Torrence, who will retire at the end of the school year, said that he is not a fan of block scheduling, and students should be able to adapt to the new schedule. “I think it’s doable — the amount of homework that you guys [will] have. Plus, it should be more spread out,” he said.

In previous years, a practice known as “flex nights” regulated days that teachers could assign homework. Each core academic department was assigned a day on which its teachers could not assign homework. For instance, English teachers were not to make homework assignments on Thursdays. A similar practice applied to tests. Departments were assigned two test days a week. English Department test days were Mondays and Thursdays.

Math teacher Abigail Goldstein (’01) said test days were designated to prevent students from facing five or more tests in one day. “Math and English could test on certain days, social studies and science could test on certain days. I believe the plan is to implement some type of test schedule so that it couldn’t happen,” she said.

Cotton said that conferences — times for students to meet with teachers and attend clubs after school — should be longer than next year’s schedule allows. “I wish we would extend the conference time. The conference time used to be a full hour, and now it’s only 45 minutes. The only way to do it would be to start

“Teachers are going to have to be very mindful of the syllabus, of when to press the gas and when to brake.”

William Warren

the school day a little earlier, and I think they didn’t want to do that,” Cotton said.

DEI Coordinator William Warren (’07) said that an extra 15 minutes for conferences means students don’t have to rush. “I think [an hour] would help because the teachers have students from five, six classes dive bombing their conference periods. It also just sounds better to know that you get an hour of help, and not 45 minutes,” Warren said.

When Warren attended the high school, he said, students were expected to spend around two hours per night on homework. He said that teachers should plan carefully to help students not feel overwhelmed next year. “Teachers are going to have to be very mindful of the syllabus, of when to press the gas and when to brake,” Warren said.

Next year’s schedule will be the fourth unique schedule in four years at the high school, and a sharp turn from the five years of block schedules that began during the height of COVID-19. Upperclassmen, Warren said, may find getting used to the next change difficult.

“I couldn’t imagine if I had to work a different schedule every year,” Warren said. “I wouldn’t be able to have any continuity or get used to it. So the first thing I would suggest to students is to focus on becoming adjusted — it’ll seem like a lot until you go through your first couple days.”



DEI Coordinator William Warren speaks to a student during an American Experience class in Room 251. Warren graduated from the high school in 2007, when the daily schedule was the same as it will be next year. *Daniel Carroll*

Q&A How to Navigate Next Year’s Schedule

How will I manage homework for every class, every day?

Students probably won’t have homework for every subject every night. In the past, departments were assigned certain days called “flex nights,” when their teachers weren’t to assign homework.

Could I ever have seven tests in one day?

Ideally, no. Similar to flex nights, there may be a schedule that dictates test days for certain departments.

How will I get individual help given the shortened class periods?

You will actually have more time in every class each week due to their frequency, which may enable more chances for individual help.

How do I get to class in four minutes instead of five?

Hurry.

DECIDING WHICH HOLIDAYS COUNT



Students and staff gather in the library to share food during a day-long Lunar New Year celebration Jan. 28, supported by the Shaker Schools Foundation. *Courtesy of Ke Shi*

District's addition of Eid to school calendar spurs calls to recognize Lunar New Year with a day off

VIVIAN CLEMENT AND RACHEL HREN
Journalism II Reporters

The Board of Education's 2023 decision to add Eid-al Fitr to the list of recognized holidays has prompted some students, families and staff to ask that Lunar New Year be added as well.

Eid al-Fitr is a three-day holiday marking the end of Ramadan, Islam's holy month of fasting. It fell on Sunday, March 30 and Monday, March 31 this year. Spring break included March 31 this year in observance of Eid. People who participate in Ramadan break their fast on Eid to commemorate the end of the holy month. Celebrations include at least three prayer services, community meals and charity collections.

The district calendar acknowledged the holiday for the first time this year, bringing the number of observed school cultural holidays to six. Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Eid al-Fitr and Good Friday will be included in the 2025-2026 district calendar.

Dr. Lawrence Burnley, chief diversity, equi-

"I've noticed we celebrate a lot of different cultures' holidays, but we seem not to acknowledge as widely the Asian holidays, such as Chinese New Year."

Evan Wong

ty and inclusion officer, said that the decision to add cultural holidays to the district calendar is not based solely on demographics, and that the Islamic population at Shaker is significantly smaller than the Jewish and Christian populations. "But because of our commitment to inclusion, equity and diversity, that Muslim voice is heard, regardless of the representation of the demographics in the district," Burnley said.

"I've noticed we celebrate a lot of different cultures' holidays," said freshman Evan Wong, "but we seem not to acknowledge as widely the Asian holidays, such as Chinese New Year."

Lunar New Year, also referred to as Chinese New Year or Spring Festival, is celebrated on the second new moon after winter solstice, which occurs annually on Dec. 21, and falls between Jan. 21 and Feb. 20. For many Asian cultures, the 15-day holiday marks the beginning of the lunar calendar and the arrival of spring. A Lunar New Year's Eve feast kicks off the holiday and includes symbolic foods, decorations and dances associated with the Chinese Zodiac. Marking more than 3,500 years of Lunar New Year celebrations, 2025 is the Year of the Snake.

Diwali, another primarily Asian holiday that the district hasn't acknowledged, falls between October and November. While Diwali is a Hindu holiday, people of various religious identi-

ties across India celebrate it, including Jains, Sikhs and Buddhists.

Freshman Ro Laughlin said that even though Shaker's Asian population is relatively low, Lunar New Year should be recognized. "A lot of other cultures and ethnicities are represented," Laughlin said. When school began in 2024, just over 2 percent of the district's enrollment was Asian, a number that does not account for multiracial students.

Beachwood City Schools, with a larger Asian student population of 11.8 percent, had the day off for Lunar New Year for the first time in 2024. The district also added Diwali and Eid to its calendar in 2023.

A New York state law, passed in 2023, requires public schools to observe Lunar New Year. No other states require it. Kay Cohen, parent of a Shaker student, noticed the lack of recognition for Lunar New Year. In December 2024, she emailed Superintendent David Glasner to request that the district suspend classes in honor of the holiday.

Glasner responded that no changes were planned for the 2025-2026 school calendar. "Our Chinese language teacher pointed out that many Chinese individuals celebrate the Lunar New Year on Lunar New Year's Eve since that is when families typically get together for large meals and also because 11:00 a.m. here is midnight in China," he wrote. Glasner also noted that in 2026, Lunar New Year's Eve will fall on President's Day, when schools are already closed.

Glasner concluded that the district's "Chinese faculty also do an excellent job every year of celebrating the Lunar New Year with students across buildings."

Mandarin teacher Raina Li coordinated the 2025 celebrations. "This year, we had kind of a big celebration at Shaker Heights High School," Li said. "We had all the students in Chinese class, Asian Studies and IB World History join us to celebrate for a performance."

The celebration included a dragon dance, a traditional Chinese performance where dancers hold a giant dragon puppet to give the impression of a real dragon. At the last minute, they needed somebody to fill an empty spot in the dragon, so Principal Isaiah Wyatt stepped in. "He was so good and he held the dragon while twirling all over the school," Li said.

Li said she misses Lunar New Year celebrations with her young sons while she coordinates celebrations for the high school. If Lunar New Year falls on a school day, her family "just doesn't have a celebration at home." She said it takes a lot of energy to plan for and put together the celebration for the high school, and she is too tired for more than a simple family meal when she gets home.

In response to Cohen's email request, Burnley thanked her for inviting the district to consider it "through the lens of inclusive excellence."

Wong said that adding Lunar New Year to the calendar would encourage other minorities to seek acknowledgment. He said, "I think it will push them to also ask for days off on their most important holidays."



The front door at 5:58 p.m. May 13 — a teacher stated that the door had been open since 3:30 p.m. — and a north gym parking lot door during sixth period May 9. Shakerite Photo

NEXT YEAR CAN'T BE LIKE THIS

Shaker students deserve safety and consistency

From a botched schedule to a new phone policy to the introduction of metal detectors, this school year has been anything but consistent. Though there are three months before we return to the building, administrators must plan a more stable school year before Aug. 20 — they owe it to students and staff.

Security practices this year dragged students down. Screening should have been implemented long before the string of violent and potentially violent incidents that occurred in September. The rushed and unexpected implementation of bag checks, wandings, bag searches and metal detection was problematic every step of the way. By now, we've settled into a routine of coming to school — but let's not forget the random closings of certain entrances and freezing temperatures students had to wait in on Monday mornings, and ever-changing sensitivity settings on weapons detection that could pick up a quarter one day and turn a blind eye to a Chromebook the next. Next year, we need a consistent security policy that allows students to efficiently enter the school, get to class and stay safe.

On the topic of safety, security and police officers need to get it together. We've now had a former student die because of gun violence this year, at the hands of a current student. Security in this building must be more intensely focused and consistent than ever and constantly alert for a worst-case scenario. Instead, officers play games on their phones in the halls, so engrossed that they can be startled by someone walking purposefully. If students have

to lock their phones up, security and police should, too. It's too late to be having these conversations — but have them, anyway.

At the beginning of the school year, the ID policy was enforced consistently. Now, students walk the halls — and through security screening — without lanyards. Last year, two trespassers were arrested at the high school after entering through an unlocked north gym door, walking to the cafeteria and assaulting a student. Now, doors are regularly propped open with no one watching them. If trespassers are able to enter these doors — and nobody checks them for IDs — school safety is at risk.

Though there are three months before we return to the building, administrators must plan a more stable school year before Aug. 20 — they owe it to students and staff.

Administrators should inform students when they issue suspensions and expulsions for violence. Otherwise, we'll never know whether the person we saw viciously punching their peer is still walking around the halls. Students and families need transparency from the school district now more than ever: Tell us that people pay consequences for harming others and our feelings of safety.

Regardless of security, a school isn't a school if no one knows where to go. The scheduling errors at the beginning of this year were unacceptable. The combination of the PowerSchool system and human error of administrators creating schedules was disastrous. Not every class was assigned a classroom, while other classes were scheduled in the same room at the same time; some teachers were assigned to teach in different classrooms every period, all around the building; The Shakerite was assigned a room other than the newsroom; a version of the schedule was wrongly released to all students in June, showing that everyone was assigned A lunch; and when the schedule officially released, the system of four lunches had to be quickly changed to three while students and staff scrambled to figure out what was going on.

The administration has three months to get it together.

RAIDER RANTS



Death To Digital Clocks

People struggle to read analog clocks not because they are inherently more complicated than their digital counterparts, but because people need to convert the analog representation of time to a numerical one, and in doing so, miss out on the best way of understanding time: spatially, as fractions of a circle. A half-hour becomes a half-circle — a tangible, physical representation; an increase of 30 has no physical value — it's all in your head. Our brains process ideas with associated images faster than those without, so, given enough practice, reading analog clocks should literally take less brain power.



Alison Teeter

Expand the NBA

The NBA has had 30 franchises since 2004. Twenty-one years, and counting, is the longest stretch without expansion by 12 years. Yet, the league generates more than \$10 billion in revenue. In 2025, the league signed a media rights deal projected at \$75 billion. Seattle and Las Vegas are ready with fans and money. Meanwhile, five of the top 10 picks in the 2024 draft played stints in the NBA G League. The talent pool exceeds roster sizes, and the market is growing. It's not just time; an NBA expansion is embarrassingly overdue.



Spencer Zbanek

Justice for the Em Dash

Social media often informs you of "dead giveaways" for AI-generated writing. But one punctuation mark has taken the brunt of these slanderous accusations — the em dash. It isn't a minus or an en dash. It can replace a comma, colon — even parentheses. Why should this beloved device be reduced to an AI indicator? Do we really believe no human would use this mark? My life would be bland without em dashes — notice how many I've used in this rant alone! Imagine they were commas — yuck. Em dashes were the writer's crutch long before AI subverted them — and you know it, too.



Isabel Siegel

Square Brackets Are Sexy

I am a chronic square-bracket misuser, and I think you should be, too. Unlike the wishy-washy curviness of parentheses, square brackets are cool and angular. Plus, you only need one key to type them. Imagine a math equation featuring several sets of parentheses. Feel the shivers down your spine. Now, picture a set of square brackets that tame the beast with visual hierarchy. Some may counter that punctuation is for function, not aesthetics. That convention is as tired as I am on Monday.



Olivia Cavallo

SHELTON STIFLES OPPONENTS

SPENCER ZBANEK
Raider Zone Editor

Senior lacrosse captain and defenseman Miles Shelton helped lead the Raiders to a 13-3 season. Shelton has been on the varsity team for four years, a starter for three and a captain for two. Head Coach Will Talbott-Shere said that Shelton has been a key player during all of his three years as coach. “It’s a testament to the work he puts in in the offseason, how focused he is, and how much he grinds during the season,” Talbott-Shere said.

The Ohio Lacrosse Network put Shelton on the Pre-Season Region Two All-State watchlist. He was also dubbed “one of the most imposing uncommitted defensemen in the ’25 class” by Inside Lacrosse.

Talbott-Shere said that he had high expectations for Shelton, but Shelton exceeded them. “I knew he definitely had the potential to become that player that he is today when I first met him. I wasn’t sure if his work ethic was all there, but he’s definitely proved all my doubts incorrect,” Talbott-Shere said.

Shelton said that his responsibility as a captain extends beyond his on-field performance. “I have been able to use my experience to my advantage by helping out younger players in practice and giving them pointers when they

mess up,” Shelton said. Shelton said that he is responsible for settling the team down during games. “During the triple overtime 8-7 win over Chagrin Falls, I tried my best to keep everyone calm in such a stressful scenario. In a game like that, everyone’s nerves are high, so I reminded everyone to stay level-headed and play our game,” Shelton said.

Talbott-Shere said that Shelton was crucial to setting up the team’s defensive system. “He talks with Coach Brady, who’s our defensive coordinator, and he was the one who was able to really implement the system with the defense. They’re always talking in film and at practice about ways that the zone could be the most effective and where guys should be out on the field,” Talbott-Shere said.

Senior midfielder Kellen Young said that Shelton inspires the team through his on-field performance. “To see Shelly make an explosive play motivates you to do the same. I’ll see Shelly hit a mean check, and it gets the sideline and the rest of the team fired up and ready to play with more explosiveness,” Young said.

Shelton will continue his lacrosse career at Rochester Institute of Technology. “I am extremely excited to continue my lacrosse and academic careers at RIT,” said Shelton. “It is an amazing opportunity to play for such a high-level lacrosse program that is able to compete for a national title every year.”



Senior Miles Shelton heads downfield during the Raiders’ 10-8 defeat of North Canton Hoover May 13 at Russell H. Rupp Field. Camryn Dozier



Shelton



GCC Champ.
2024 and 2025

2023
All-Region Honorable Mention

2024
All-Region Second Team

2025
Pre-Season Region Two All-State Watchlist

2025
All-Region Second Team



Molly Milligan, a junior, makes contact during a 10-1 loss to Brunswick May 15. Milligan switched to softball this year after two years in the outfield for the baseball team. Camryn Dozier

MILLIGAN HITS RAIDERS HOME

SPENCER ZBANEK
Raider Zone Editor

Junior softball outfielder and first baseman Molly Milligan has batted .475 with 24 RBIs, helping lead the Raiders to a 13-7 season.

Milligan played her first two high school seasons on the baseball team and joined the softball team this year. Head coach Victoria Rosen said that Milligan’s baseball experience expedited her transition. “Her switch has been seamless. The baseball coaches and I have always supported Molly’s journey, and this choice was one that I know was very personal for Molly. The foundation she gained through her baseball experience has been instrumental in her skill development, which has transferred over to her success on the softball field,” Rosen said.

Milligan said that there have been some learning struggles in softball. “There are some big differences that I had to get used to. One, you can’t lead off in softball,” Milligan said. “Hitting is also different. The pitcher is closer and the windup is different, so I’ve had to adjust my timing.”

Junior infielder Cora Bissett said that Milligan has the safest glove on the field. “Routine plays are always smooth with Molly, and the field exhales when a fly ball goes to left field,” Bissett said.

Milligan said that good fielding comes with keeping it simple. “I always try to stick to the

fundamentals, what my coaches call the ‘vitamins’ of fielding, because at the end of the day, I just want to make the play to help my team,” Milligan said.

Rosen said that Milligan helps the team beyond her on-field performance. “Her contributions to our program on and off the field are undeniable. She holds herself to a high standard on a daily basis and exemplifies excellence in all she does,” Rosen said. “Even with her fundamentally strong fielding and hitting skill sets, she is beyond gracious, humble, and still hungry for feedback. Molly constantly seeks to better herself on and off the field. She has a true champion mentality and an intense, focused approach to all she does on and off the field, and it is contagious.”

Bissett said that Milligan’s energy inspires the team. “Molly came into the program locked in and ready to work hard. That momentum helped get everyone going. Molly keeps the energy going on the field and is a vocal player which helps our lines of communication stay active,” Bissett said.

Milligan is a pleasure to have on a softball diamond, said Rosen. “Molly is a ballplayer through and through and contributes to any team lucky enough to have her. She is also one of the most coachable players I’ve ever had the privilege of coaching.”



Milligan

By the #s

.475
Batting Average

.543
On-Base Percentage

.965
Fielding Percentage

.803
Slugging Percentage

29
Hits